

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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S E C R E T STATE 071656

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEES PLS HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT TAIPEI 1535 ACTION SECSTATE SAIGON INFO

SEOUL JAKARTA MANILA 27 MARCH.

QUOTE

S E C R E T TAIPEI 1535

EXDIS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS MASS VS TW

SUBJECT: LST LOAN

REF: A. STATE 069147 B. SAIGON 3595

1. CHIEF MAAG GENERAL NASH AND POL COUNSELOR CALLED
ON GENERAL LAI MING-TANG TOGETHER WITH ADMIRAL
YU PO-SHENG LATE TODAY AND MADE APPROACH BASED ON
PARA (2) REFTTEL B. GENERAL LAI, WHO HAD ALREADY
RECEIVED SIMILAR REQUEST FROM GVN RELAYED BY GROG
EMBASSY SAIGON, ASKED HOW MANY SHIPS WERE NEEDED.

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NASH INDICATED THAT NEED WAS VERY GREAT, AND THAT UP

TO TWELVE COULD BE USED.

2. GENERAL LAI SAID THAT HE COULD MAKE TWO LST'S WITH ROC CREWS AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY, AND THAT ONCE THESE WERE ON THE SCENE ROC COULD CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING ADDITIONAL SHIPS. HE INDICATED THAT HE ALREADY HAD THE PREMIER'S APPROVAL AND THAT TWO SHIPS WILL BE READY TO SAIL "TOMORROW" AS SOON AS THE GROC HAS RECEIVED DETAILS BEING REQUESTED VIA ITS EMBASSY IN SAIGON ABOUT WHERE AND TO WHOM SHIPS SHOULD REPORT. GEN LAI ASSUMES THAT BUNKERING, PROVISIONING, ETC. WILL BE PROVIDED BY GVN. ALTHOUGH HE ADDED THAT TWO LST'S WOULD LEAVE WITH PROVISIONS FOR ONE MONTH. THERE WAS NO RPT NO MENTION OF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.

3. GENERAL LAI SAID THAT THE TWO SHIPS WOULD SAIL WITHOUT ESCORT AND WOULD REQUIRE ABOUT SIX DAYS' SAILING TIME. CAREFUL PRECAUTIONS WOULD BE TAKEN TO KEEP SHIP'S DEPARTURE AND COURSE SECRET. THE SHIPS' COURSE WOULD CARRY THEM WELL SOUTH OF THE PARACELS.

4. AS BOTH GENERAL LAI AND ADMIRAL YU SHOWED EVERY INDICATION THAT THE GROC WISHES TO BE BOTH RESPONSIVE AND PROMPT IN MEETING THE GVN'S URGENT REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE, SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY SAIGON FOLLOW THROUGH AND MAKE SURE THAT THE GROC EMBASSY IS GETTING THE DESIRED INFORMATION ASAP FROM THE GVN.

5. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF LOANED SHIPS. WE ASSUME DEPT WILL NOT NEED SHIP IDENTIFICATION FOR PRIOR NOTICE TO CONGRESS (REF A PARA 7).

6. FYI. DOES EMBASSY SAIGON BELIEVE THAT ROCAF C-119'S, (WITH ROC AIR CREWS) CARRYING APPROXIMATELY FIFTY PERSONS PER TRIP COULD BE USEFUL AT THIS STAGE?

7. SUGGEST DEPT CONSIDER REPEATING THIS AND OTHER PERTINENT CABLES TO SEDEF, JCS AND CINCPAC.

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